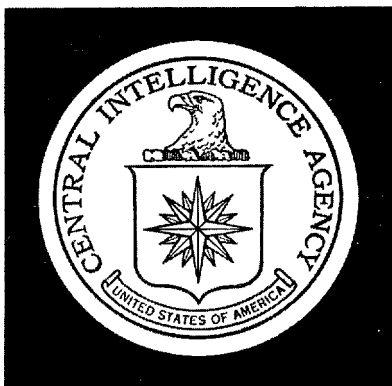


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Communist China: The political situation remains tense, but there is no clear trend in any direction.

National and provincial propaganda media have continued to stress the twin dangers of "rightist resurgence" and of the "reversal of verdicts," that is, the rehabilitation of officials who had been sidelined by Red Guard attacks earlier in the Cultural Revolution.

These have been prominent themes since the fall of acting Chief of Staff Yang Cheng-wu in late March. There has been very little fire accompanying these smoke signals, however. No attacks have developed on controversial provincial officials rehabilitated in the past several months.

In Anhwei Province, which has been in the forefront of the propaganda campaign, a new Revolutionary Committee to run the province was formed on 18 April. The committee is dominated by military figures and includes among its vice chairmen two former party officials who had been publicly denounced and dismissed from office in January 1967.

Two other provincial committees set up in the past month in Hunan and Ningsia are also dominated by military figures, even though continued propaganda admonitions that representatives of the "revolutionary masses" and "revolutionary cadres" should play a role equal to the military on such committees. Provincial appointments in general have not departed significantly from the pattern of recent months despite the "revolutionary" turn in propaganda.

Open clashes in the provinces have died away in many areas, but bitter fighting continues in a few places. Shantung Province has just announced a purge of members of its Revolutionary Committee, and recent poster attacks in Peking on leaders in the Peking municipality and two northern provinces reflect continuing political conflict in these areas.

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Communist China: Conscription practices adopted recently will complicate the problem of maintaining a well-trained defense establishment.

The new procedures reduce by two years the terms of service for conscripts. Infantry inductees will now serve two years, those in the sea arm of the navy four, and those in all other military branches three years.

By 1970 about one million inductees will be needed each year if China's military forces are to be kept at their current level of 2.7 million. Under the previous arrangement, 500,000 to 600,000 were inducted each year. Problems of training and maintenance of combat readiness will grow in proportion to the rise in the number of personnel entering and leaving military service. Unless relieved of some of their present nonmilitary duties, the defense forces will be hard pressed to maintain their current level of capability.

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Peru: A congressional investigation of contraband activities in high government and military circles is having serious political repercussions.

The investigation has so far resulted in the dismissal of several members of the Belaunde administration and has created frictions within the President's party. It is now threatening to involve the opposition coalition which controls congress and the investigating committee itself.

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The committee has rejected a request from the military for exoneration of all armed forces members implicated. A committee member has strongly criticized this request, even though the chairman has been trying not to antagonize the military to the point that they would feel forced to intervene.

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*Dominican Republic: Leftist groups are planning to commemorate publicly today's third anniversary of the 1965 "Constitutionalist" revolt. Some extremists hope to provoke today's observances, as well as the demonstration slated for 28 April, into antigovernment disorders. The security forces appear ready to check any possible violence.

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